(c) Yes, Sir. According to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the incident had taken place on 25.3.1996. As a result of the bomb blast, 11 persons were killed while 41 persons were injured. The investigations revealed the involvement of eight persons in the incident. Five persons were arrested. One person surrendered in the Court. The movable and immovable property of two persons was attached. Chargesheet has been issued against the accused persons.

Normative Cost of Sugar

1524. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the normative cost of the Sugar Factory Project was fixed during 1992;

(b) whether due to escalation of prices there is a wide gap in the normative cost and actual cost of sugar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the revision of the normative cost is under consideration of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the revised normative cost is likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Government have not prescribed any normative cost for sugar factories though the financial institutions while assessing the projects have been going by a certain standard taking into account the financing pattern and the prospect of return on capital. The financial institutions are generally concerned with the debt-equity ratio and the financial viability of the project. Since the State Governments contribute a large part of equity of the Cooperatives and also have to guarantee the loans, the question of availability of total finance for a particular unit has to be resolved between them, the cooperative and the financial institutions.

(d) to (f) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have estimated the cost of a new 2500 TCD sugar factory at Rs. 40 crores.

Palm Oil Processing Venture

1525. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CSIR has signed a MOU with Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Oilseeds Federation for Rs. 17 crore indigenously developed palm oil processing technology;

(b) if so, the main features of the MOU;

(c) whether it is expected to earn sizeable foreign exchange through the export of this technology;

(d) whether the main objective of the new technology is to lead the country to self-sufficiency in the sphere of the edible oils; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this is likely to benefit the people of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. MoU has been signed between CSIR and A.P. Co-operative Oilseeds Federation for Rs. 11.20 crores.

(b) The main features of the MoU are as follows :

(i) To establish a 10 Tonne Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB)/hour processing capacity Palm Oil mill at Ashwaraopet, Distt. Khammam, Andhra Pradesh developed indigenously by National Laboratories of CSIR.

(ii) The Project will be implemented by Licensee project Engineering Companies under the supervision of CSIR.

(iii) The performance will be guaranteed to match the international standards.

(c) Yes, Sir. The indigenous technology package developed by CSIR has the potential of export to African & Far Eastern countries.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The palm oil recovery per ha. is highest amongst all other oilseed crops. The new technology package will yield higher efficiency on oil production from oil palm and thus it may attract growers to boost up its cultivation, thereby helping in achieving the goal of self-sufficiency in sphere of edible oil. The oil palm cultivation is being promoted among farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses. Along with A.P. Cooperative Oilseeds Federation, private entrepreneurs have come up to establish the oil palm processing units. Since the economic return from oil palm cultivation is higher than that obtained from conventional oilseed crops, the latest processing facilities would increase higher recovery of palm oil and attract the farmers of the Andhra Pradesh towards the cultivation of this crop with higher returns.

Pashu Vigyan Kendras

1526. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state: